

SECRET

13 November 1953

**MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION** held at State Department on  
12 November 1953, 3:00 p.m.

**SUBJECT:** State Department's Memoranda of  
Conversation and Cables

**PARTICIPANTS:** Mr. Arthur Nagle  
Mr. Sidney Buford  
Mr. William C. Truheart

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1. The main categories of sources of memoranda of conversation between U. S. officials and foreign officials and which are of interest to intelligence are:

a. Secretary and Under Secretary Conversations

Where such conversations are held in the Department, the next senior official present is responsible for preparing the memorandum of conversation which before release is approved by the Secretary's Office. However, it is normal practice for the Department to transmit the substance of such memoranda to the interested U. S. foreign missions by cable, such cables usually going to the field earlier than dissemination of the actual memo of conversation. By and large these cables are already available to the Agency. Where the conversation is held abroad, the Department is kept informed by cable, such cables likewise going to the Agency.

State Department review completed

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Mr. Nagle undertook, however, to give special attention to ensure CIA receipt of these memos.

My comment:

CIA's appraisal of its receipt of the contents of memos of conversation should include reference to outgoing and incoming cables as mentioned above, else the picture would be incomplete. Insofar as the political stresses or the nature of the decisions are extremely hot and such cables are not made available to the Agency, and if a request for such is not honored, it is most unlikely that there is any procedure (which would be acceptable to the Department) for making them available to us.

b. Memos of conversation by Assistant Secretaries or Bureau Personnel of sufficient importance to be sent to the Secretary's office

The procedure which Mr. Nagle is instituting, as noted above, will cover this for CIA.

c. Memos of conversation as in (b) above but not of sufficient importance to be transmitted to the Secretary's office

Mr. Nagle invited [ ] to have his representative meet at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 18 November 1953 with the Director of the Executive Secretariat and the Staff Assistants to the Bureaus. The purpose will be to explain to the staff assistants (who are in both a control point in Assistant Secretaries' offices and a point of influence among those preparing memos of conversation) the need of the Agency for memos of conversation. Mr. Scott or Mr. Nagle will urge the staff assistants to cooperate as fully as possible by including CIA on the routing. ~~It is understood that the channel will be IAD/State to CIA.~~ It was believed by Mr. Nagle that the shortcomings of the Bureau level memo of conversation could be laid to thoughtlessness or the habit of not preparing such memoranda rather than a witting exclusion of CIA.

In this connection, reference was made by [ ] to the value of good personal relations between CIA officers and the Bureau desk officers in the dissemination of memos of conversation. This, it was recognized, would at best be spotty because of the personality differences on both sides and could not and should not be relied on as the main method of dissemination.

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2. Taking advantage of Mr. Nagle's inquiry as to whether there were other problems which we might usefully discuss, [ ] raised the problem of delays in CIA receipt [ ] cables. Mr. Nagle reviewed the practice of his office: Cables are made available to our messenger at 10:00 a.m. (which includes all traffic received since 1:30 the previous day), and at 2:30 p.m. (which includes all traffic received between 10:00 and 1:30).

3. It appeared that recent delays in receipt by OCI might be caused by internal CIA procedures, which possibility Mr. [ ] undertook to investigate.

[ ]  
Assistant Director  
Intelligence Coordination

OIC:JQR:KM (17 November 1953)

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